A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY

INTERMITTENT URINARY CATHETERIZATION
Revised October 2024

We IMPACT lives.

Dear Physician,

In 2008 Medicare changed the local coverage determination (LCD) for urological supplies. The previous policy covered "clean technique" for patients without a history of recurring urinary tract infections – allowing four intermittent catheters per month which were cleaned and re-used. The new policy allows any patient who utilizes intermittent catheterization to receive one sterile urological catheter and one packet of lubricant for each catheterization.

There are a couple of important points to keep in mind when ordering urological supplies for your patients. First, the prescription should reflect the number of times that the patient actually catheterizes him/herself per day. For example, if the patient self-catheterizes four times per day, the prescription should be for approximately 120 catheters per month. Although the LCD says that Medicare will cover up to 200 intermittent catheters per month, this is a maximum number and most patients self-catheterize less than 6 times per day. It would be inappropriate to routinely order 200 catheters per month for every patient. The prescription must be individualized for each patient. Additionally, the need for more than 200 intermittent catheters per month is considered overutilization and must be accompanied by supporting documentation of medical necessity describing the specific reason for the additional quantities of intermittent catheters and supplies.

The second important point is that you should clearly document in your chart the number of times per day that the patient performs self-catheterization. Just listing that value on the prescription or on a separate form provided by the supplier is not sufficient. In the case of an audit, we would look for documentation in your patient's medical record.

Thank you for your cooperation and your care of Medicare patients.

Sincerely,

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